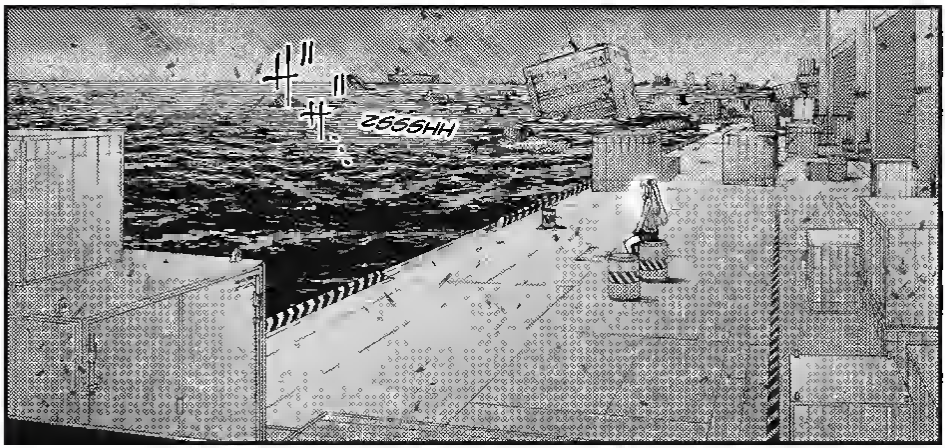
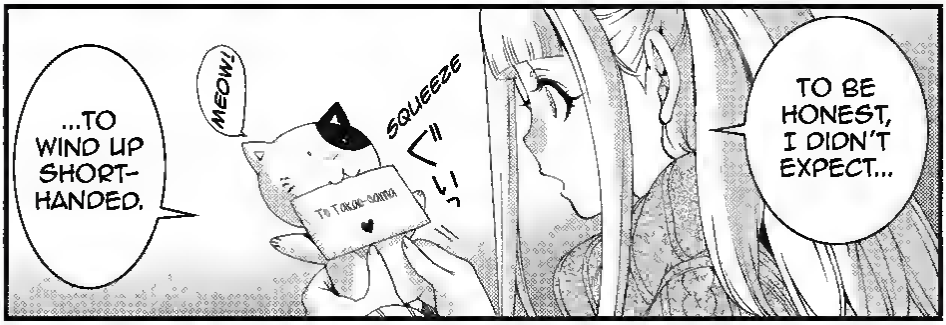
Depth:082


ZSSSHH

YOU'RE EARLY.
NOT THAT I REALLY UNDER-STAND HOW SCHOOL LIFE WORKS.
I'M NOT IN ANY AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS.
I STILL HAD TO LOSE A BUNCH OF HANGERS-ON, THOUGH.
KTAK
KTAK

NO ONE EVER COMES HERE.
DON'T WORRY. 402 CHECKED IT OUT.
IS THIS PLACE SAFE?
FLUMP
I SEE.
THERE'S TOO MUCH DANGER-OUS STUFF AROUND.
AND 402 IS STILL OUT ON THAT SPY MISSION.
I TOWED IT HERE MYSELF.
TO BE HONEST, I WANTED TO KEEP AN EYE ON MAYA STILL...
...BUT I DON'T WANT TO USE ZUIKAKU.

SWISH
SWISH
I'M FLATTERED.


MEOW!
SQUEEZE
TO TOKOE-SAMA
...TO WIND UP SHORT-HANDED.
TO BE HONEST, I DIDN'T EXPECT...

I HOPE...
ZSSSH
...THIS TAKES CARE OF THAT PROBLEM.

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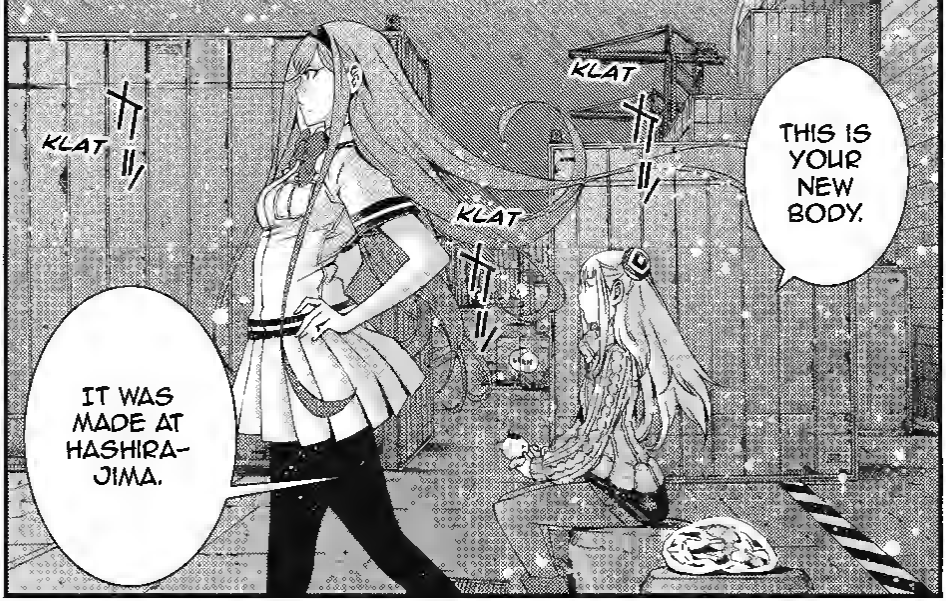
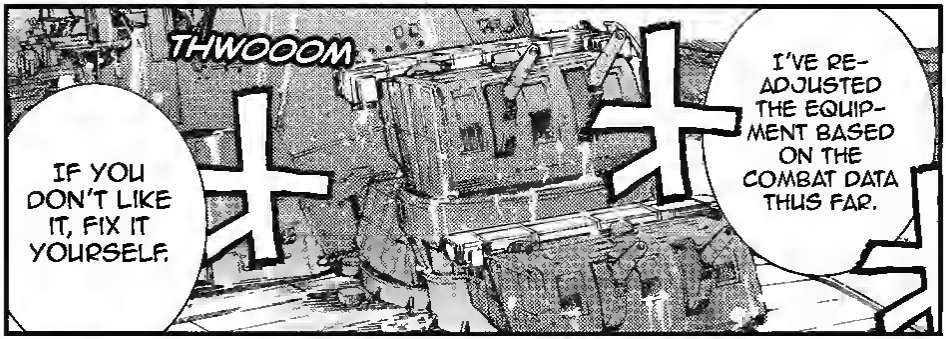
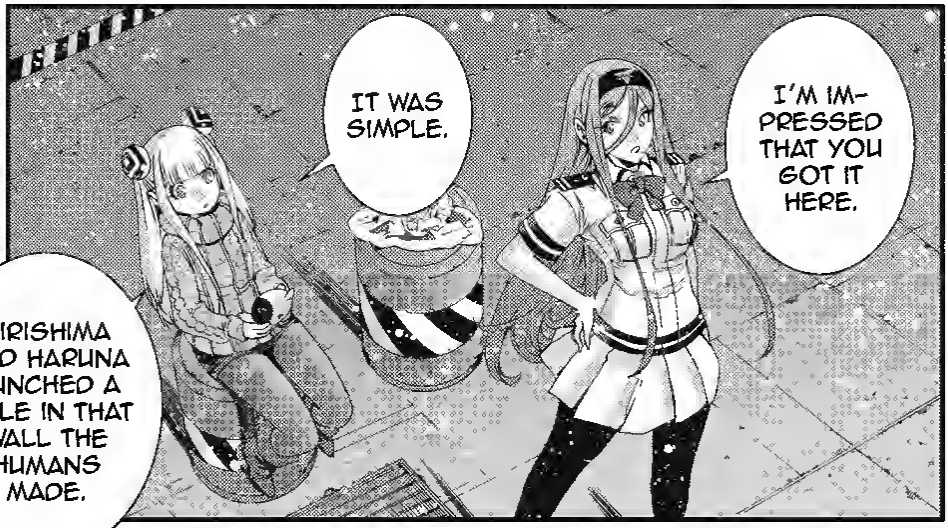

KLAT
KLAT
KLAT
THIS IS YOUR NEW BODY.
IT WAS MADE AT HASHIRA-JIMA.


THWOOOM
I'VE RE-ADJUSTED THE EQUIP-MENT BASED ON THE COMBAT DATA THUS FAR.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, FIX IT YOURSELF.


I'M IM-PRESSED THAT YOU GOT IT HERE.
IT WAS SIMPLE.
KIRISHIMA AND HARUNA PUNCHED A HOLE IN THAT WALL THE HUMANS MADE.

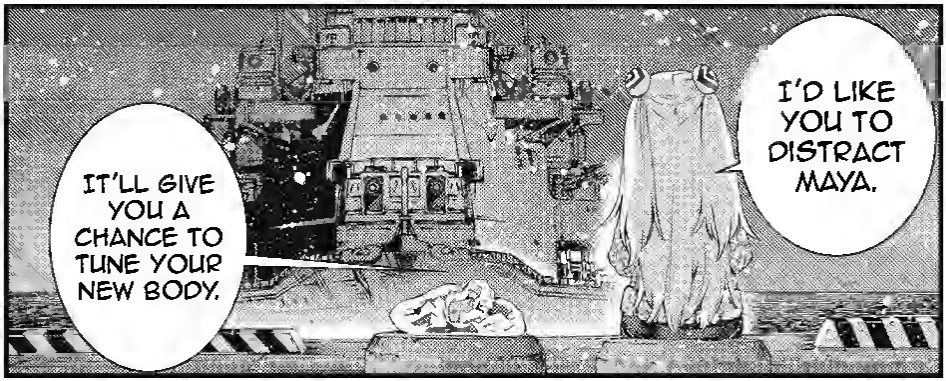
THEY'VE BARELY BEEN RESTORED AT ALL.
SAME WITH THE SONAR AND SENSOR BUOYS IN THE AREA.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO IF WE'RE CAREFUL, WE CAN GO IN AND OUT AS WE PLEASE?
I COULD ALMOST FORGET THAT I'M A PRISONER.
YOU'RE HELPING ME WITH EVERY-THING, HUH?
I'LL ALSO GIVE YOU THE MAP OF THE OCEAN AROUND THE PORT AREA THAT 402 AND I MADE.

BZZ
INITIATING ACCEPTANCE SEQUENCE.
BZZ
CLICK
CLICK
ENGAGE.
VWEEEOOOM

FIGURES YOU'D PICK THAT COLOR.
THE ONLY FLAG I LOOK UP TO...
BLUE STEEL
...IS THAT CREST.

JUST SO YOU'RE AWARE...
...I'VE PUT LIMITS ON SOME OF THE FUNC-TIONALITY.
402 HAS POSSESSION OF THE FINAL KEY CODE FOR THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.
OF COURSE. I'M A PRISON-ER.
WE'LL KEEP OUR PROMISE. ONCE THIS JOB IS DONE, WE'LL RELEASE YOU.
I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU.
HOP

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
CLANG
SO?


IT'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO TUNE YOUR NEW BODY.
I'D LIKE YOU TO DISTRACT MAYA.

CLANG
CLANG

...I HAVE A NEW BODY. IS THAT OKAY?
THAT WILL MEAN LETTING HER KNOW...
CLICK

THEY'LL BE LESS LIKELY...
...TO DO ANYTHING RASH, HUH?

IT'S A DISPLAY OF FORCE.
THE ONLY COMBAT UNIT THEY HAVE IS MAYA.

WE'VE GOT ZUIKAKU, AND BOTH ME AND 402 BROUGHT OUR BODIES.
ONCE THEY KNOW THAT WE'VE GOT YOU, TOO...

THE BEST-CASE SCENARIO IS THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT THEM AT ALL.
THAT'S MY HOPE.

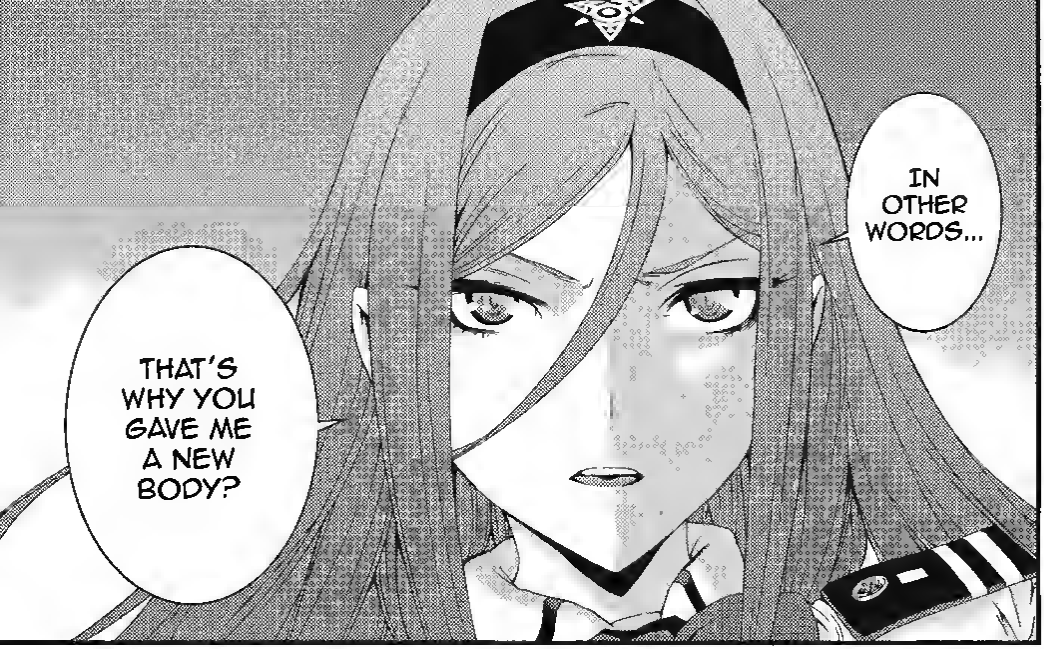
THERE'S NO REASON WE HAVE TO FIGHT...

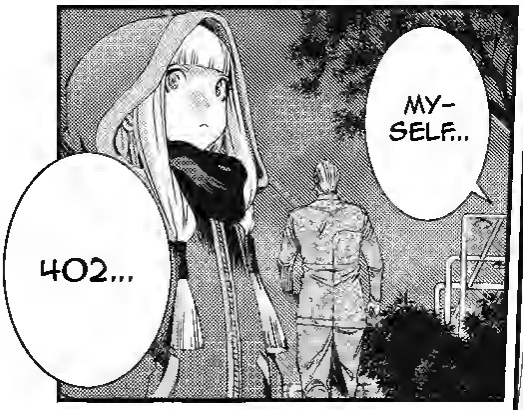
I COULD BE UP FOR A LITTLE SCRAP.
WELL...
CLICK

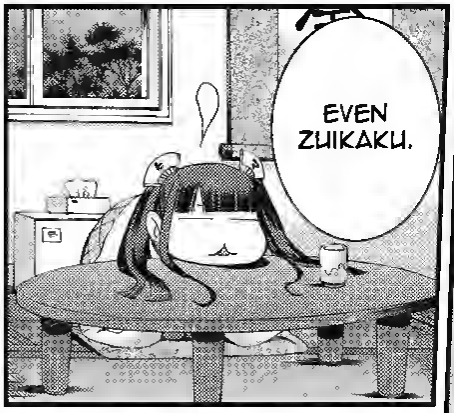
...WITH KIRISHIMA AND HARUNA, IS THERE?

BUT LET'S HOPE IT DOESN'T GET TO BE MORE THAN THAT.
BZRAAAK
MY BIGGEST CONCERN, AND 402'S...
...IS IF MAYA DIRECTS HER FIRE-POWER TOWARDS THE SUR-FACE.
THAT WOULD GO...
...AGAINST THE HIGH FLAGSHIP'S WILL.
AND HARUNA...
...HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF GOING OUT OF CON-TROL ONCE ALREADY.

...THAT COULD'VE HAPPENED TO ANY FOG SHIP...
...ASSUMING WE WERE STRUCK BY A SIMILAR UN-PROCESSIBLE STIMULUS, RIGHT?
BUT THAT'S SOME-THING...
EVEN IF ONE SHIP GOES INSANE...
...THE OTHER SHIPS MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP HER, RIGHT?
WHICH IS WHY WE'RE ALL GETTING TOGETHER TO STOP IT.
THAT'S TRUE.

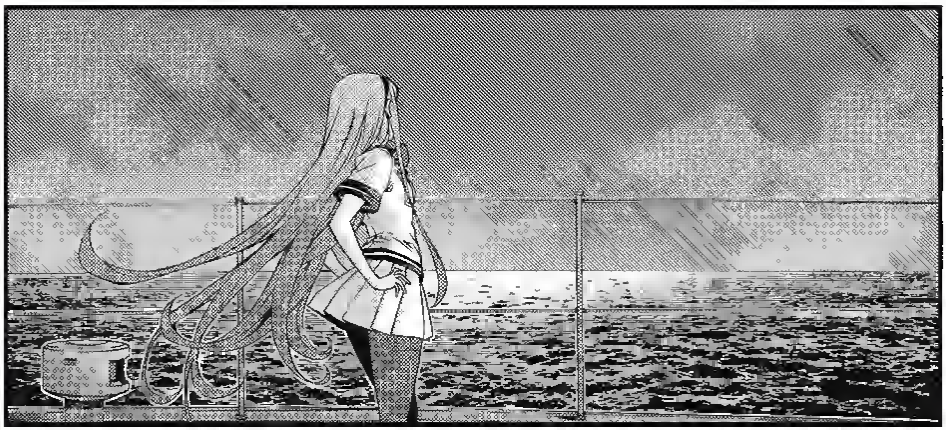

IN OTHER WORDS...
THAT'S WHY YOU GAVE ME A NEW BODY?

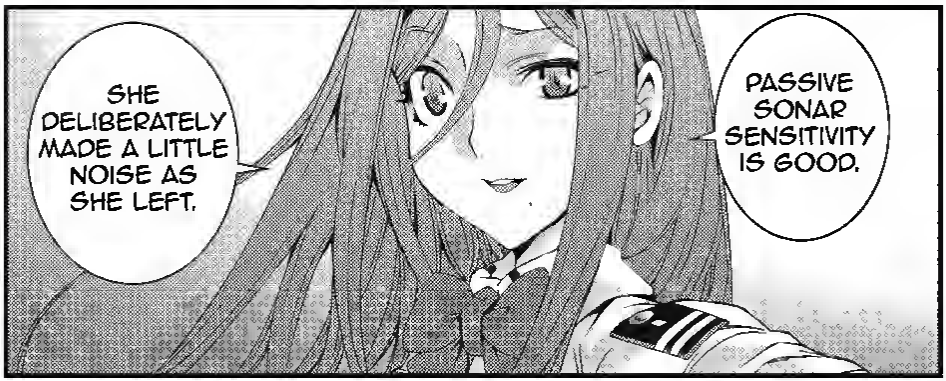

MY-SELF...
402...

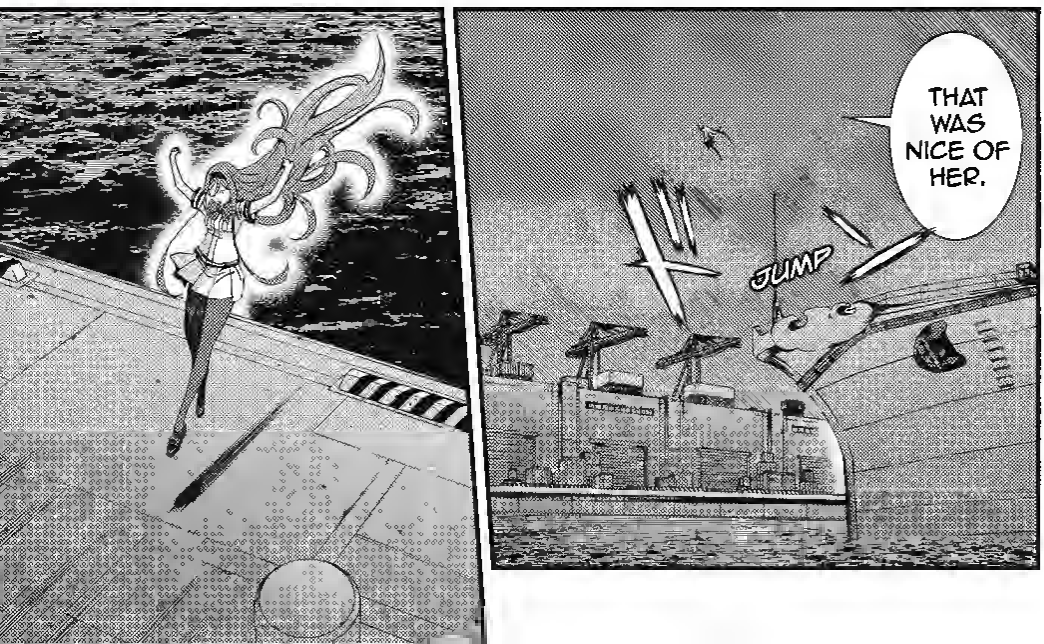

EVEN ZUIKAKU.

CORRECT.
THE FACT THAT HARUNA SHOWED SIGNS OF GOING OUT OF CON-TROL...
...IS PROOF THAT IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANY OF US.

I'D HATE TO FIND MYSELF...
...HAVING TO TRY AND STOP ZUIKAKU...
ME TOO.
I'M GOING TO GET GOING THEN.
MEOW
WE CAN'T LEAVE MAYA FREE FOREVER.
YES...
ROGER.




PASSIVE SONAR SENSITIVITY IS GOOD.
SHE DELIBERATELY MADE A LITTLE NOISE AS SHE LEFT.


THAT WAS NICE OF HER.
JUMP

KLAT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT

BZZT
WHAT WAS THAT...?
...

WERE THOSE THE MEMORIES THAT 401 SHOWED ME AT IWO JIMA?
NO, THEY WERE THE SAME CONTENTS...
...BUT IT WAS FROM MORE OF A 3RD PERSON PERSPEC-TIVE...
...
WHAT THE HELL...
...WAS THAT?

キ
SHWOOOM
キ
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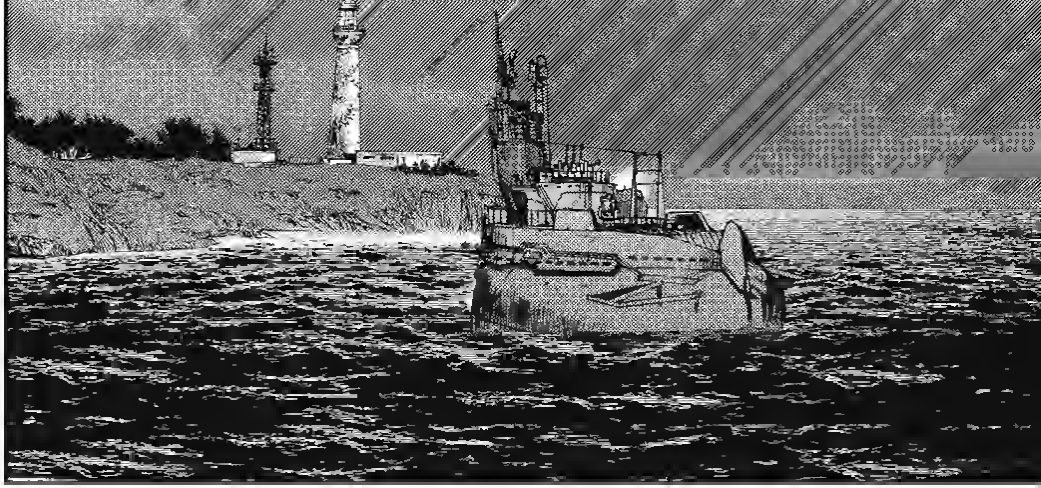
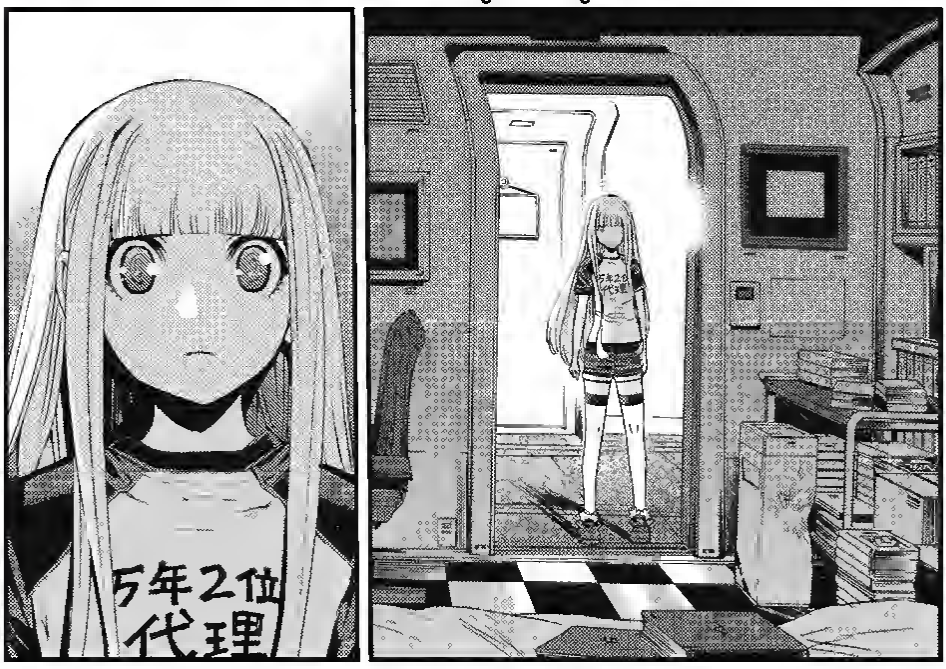
キ



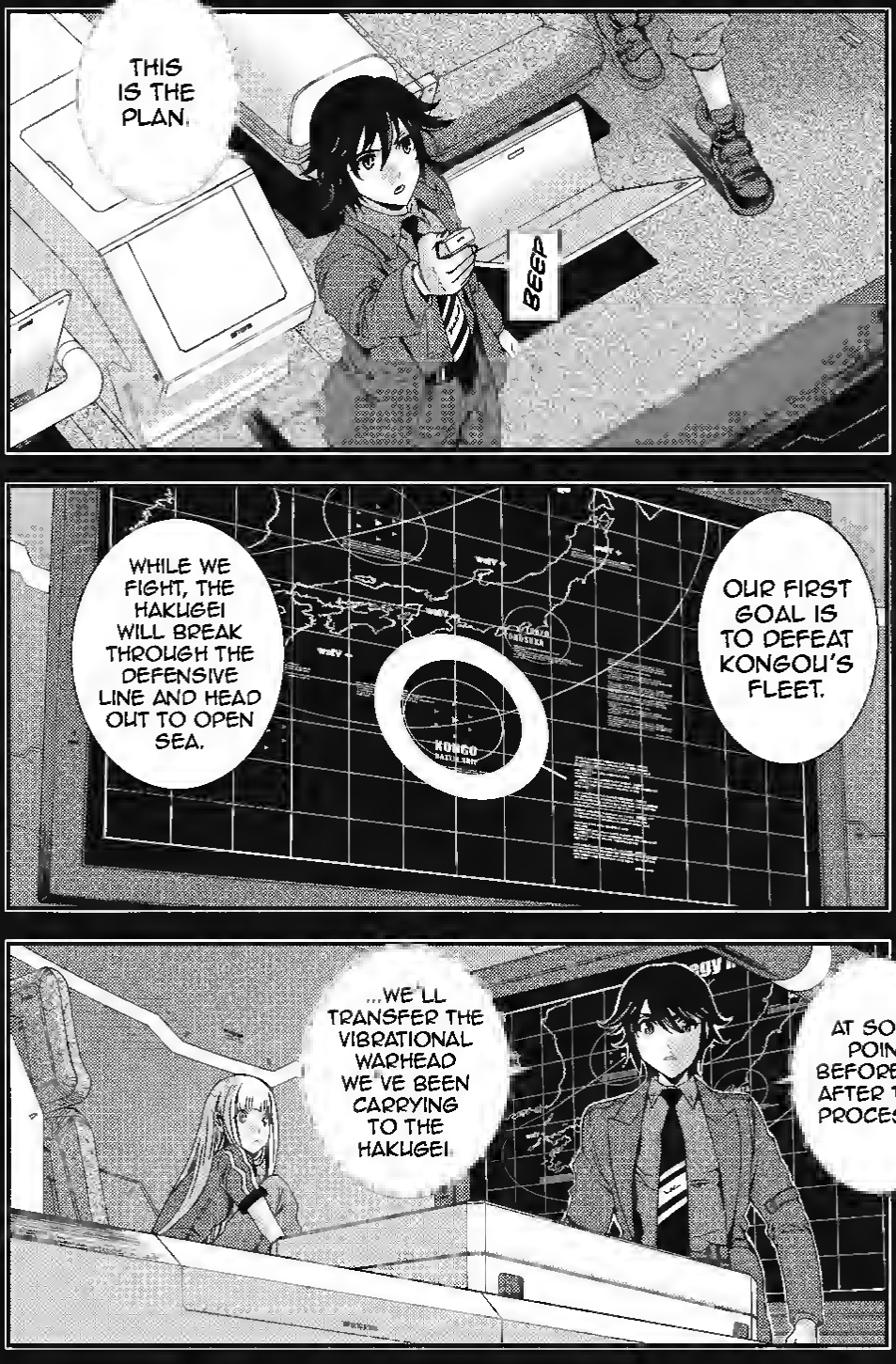
Tag: Cleaning



SO YOU'RE GOING USE US AS A DECOY THE WHOLE TIME?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE TOLD KAMIKAGE ALREADY.
...
IF WE WIN HERE, HE'LL GET THE APPROV-AL FROM THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE.
I'M HAVING HIM MAKE A MODIFIED PLAN BASED OFF THAT.
ARE YOU OPPOSED TO IT?

IT'S DIFFICULT TO AGREE IMMEDIATELY...
...BUT LET'S HEAR YOUR REASONING.
IT'S TRUE THAT HAVING US CARRY THE PLANS FOR THE VIBRATIONAL WARHEADS ...
...WOULD INCREASE THE MISSION'S CHANCE OF SUCCESS.
I THINK SO TOO.
KREE
BUT...

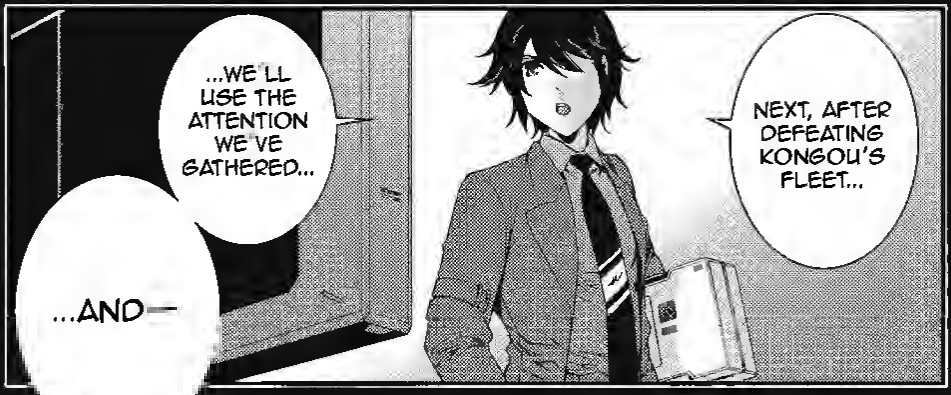
IF WE CAN CREATE THE RIGHT SITUATION, THOSE PROBABILI-TIES FLIP.
THAT'S ONLY IF YOU COMPARE OUR OWN CAPABILITIES TO THE HAKUGEI.
IF THEY WERE GOING TO PICK SOMEONE TO CHASE, IT WOULD BE US.
IT'S TRUE THAT NORMALLY THEY'D EXPECT US TO HAVE THE DOCU-MENTS.
THE RIGHT SITUA-TION, HUH?
WE'LL MAKE THEM FOLLOW US WHILE THE HAKUGEI GOES TO SAN DIEGO.
SO WE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT.


THIS IS THE PLAN.
BEEP
WHILE WE FIGHT, THE HAKUGEI WILL BREAK THROUGH THE DEFENSIVE LINE AND HEAD OUT TO OPEN SEA.
OUR FIRST GOAL IS TO DEFEAT KONGOU'S FLEET.
KONGO
...WE'LL TRANSFER THE VIBRATIONAL WARHEAD WE'VE BEEN CARRYING TO THE HAKUGEI.
AT SOME POINT BEFORE OR AFTER THAT PROCESS...

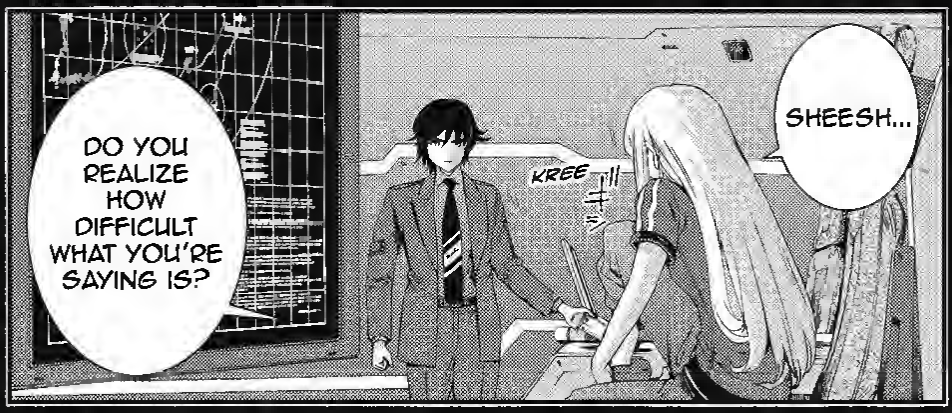
IF POSSIBLE, I WANT THE WHOLE WORLD IGNORANT...
...AS TO WHO'S GOT THE WARHEAD.

THERE MAY BE HUMANS OUT THERE WHO ARE.
WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL.

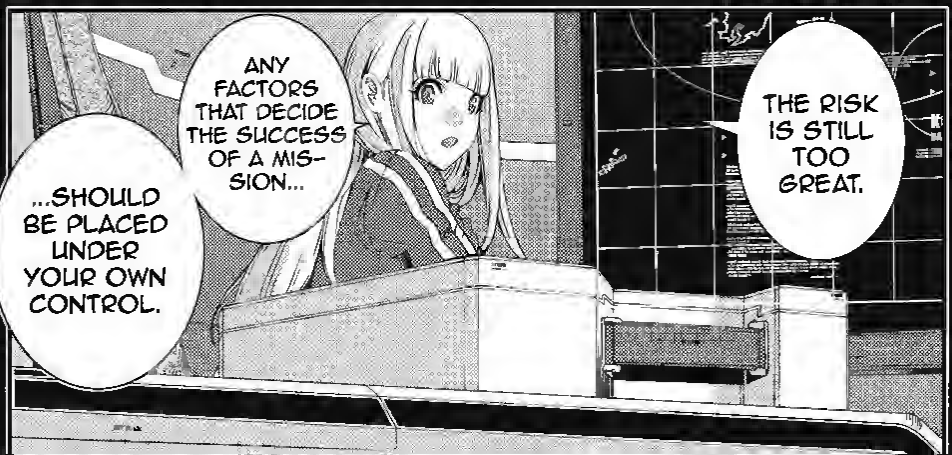
THE WHOLE WORLD...
YOU'RE INCLUDING HUMANITY AS POTENTIAL ENEMIES?


NEXT, AFTER DEFEATING KONGOU'S FLEET...
...WE'LL USE THE ATTENTION WE'VE GATHERED...
...AND—

WE'LL TAKE ACTION TO TARGET NAGATO'S 2ND FLEET.
WE WANT TO PULL HER FLEET AS FAR NORTH AS WE CAN...
...TO CREATE A GAP FOR THE HAKUGEI TO ESCAPE.


DO YOU REALIZE HOW DIFFICULT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS?
KREE
SHEESH...

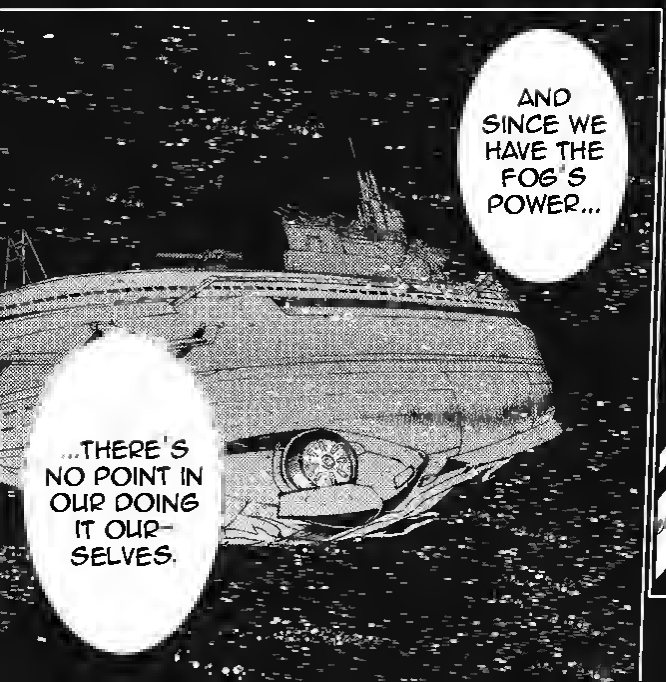
DON'T YOU?
YOU DO.
...


...SHOULD BE PLACED UNDER YOUR OWN CONTROL.
ANY FACTORS THAT DECIDE THE SUCCESS OF A MIS-SION...
THE RISK IS STILL TOO GREAT.

WHY?
BUT...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THIS IS HOW IT MUST BE.
IT HAS TO BE HUMANITY...
...THAT DELIVERS THE VIBRATIONAL WARHEAD TO AMERICA.
IS THAT WHY YOU CHOSE...
...TO USE THE HAKUGEI FOR THIS OPERATION AS WELL?

SO THAT THE CORROSIVE TORPEDO YOU GAVE THEM COULD DEAL THE KILLING BLOW...?

I WANT THEM TO REGAIN THE CONFIDENCE THEY LOST.
I WANT TO MAKE HUMANITY AND THE FOG EQUAL.


AND SINCE WE HAVE THE FOG'S POWER...
...THERE'S NO POINT IN OUR DOING IT OUR-SELVES.

I KNOW THAT.

NO MATTER HOW EXCITED THEY ARE AT FIRST, EVENTUALLY THEY'RE GOING TO SAY...
...“THEY AREN'T LIKE US.”
“THAT'S WHY THEY WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS.”
NO MATTER WHAT I SHOWED THEM...
...IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY...
SO YOU WANT TO MAKE IT...
...SO THAT IT WAS HUMAN POWER THAT ACHIEVED THIS, AND WE ONLY HELPED?
THAT'S RIGHT...

...OF THE BLUE STEEL THAT YOU AND I MADE.
THAT'S THE PURPOSE...
I MADE THE BLUE STEEL...
...FOR YOU.

ZHM
ZHM
ZHM
THAT'S PROBABLY HARUNA AND KIRISHIMA.
THEY'RE HERE, THEN?
TWO LARGE BATTLESHIPS ARE WAITING FOR US.
LET'S GO.
I'M ON MY WAY.
CAPTAIN, UNDER-SECRETARY KAMIKAGE IS HERE.

IF GUNZOU SAYS IT'S POSSIBLE, IT'S POSSIBLE.
KTANG
コン
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR ME, HIS SHIP, TO SHOW THEM.

THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE SO FAR.

AND...
PSHOOM
SHITSUKI ROOM
I'LL KEEP DOING IT.